

Community Development Block Grants for Insular Areas

Federal funding to help U.S. territories meet their housing and community development needs.

Nature of Program: Provides annual grants to four U.S. territories to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services.

Insular areas develop their own programs and funding priorities and consult with local residents before making final decisions. All CDBG activities must meet one of the following national objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons; aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight; or meet certain community development needs having a particular urgency. Some of the activities that can be carried out with community development funds include the acquisition of real property; rehabilitation of residential and nonresidential properties; provision of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer, streets, and neighborhood centers; clearance, demolition and removal of buildings and improvements; homeownership assistance; and assistance to for-profit businesses for economic development activities. No less than 70 percent of the funds expended over a period specified by the grantee, not to exceed 3 years, must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Through Fiscal Year 2004, grants to insular areas were appropriated under Section 107 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The American Dream Downpayment Act of 2003 amended the Housing and Community Development Act to move the authorization for Insular Area CDBG program funding from Section 107 to Section 106. For Fiscal Year 2005 and thereafter, funds have been made available under Section 106.

Grantee Eligibility: American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible recipients. (The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico receives funding under the State CDBG program.)

Funding Distribution: Under Section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, \$7 million of the Title I CDBG appropriation is allocated for grants to insular areas. Funds for Section 107 grants are allocated to the insular areas and other programs as directed by the present year's appropriations act.

Legal Authority: Title I, Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.). Regulations are at 24 CFR part 570.

Information Sources: Local officials and HUD field offices.

On the Web:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/insular

Current Status: Active.